



NSSP Quarterly Newsletter

April 2022

Dear all,

Hope you are doing well.

Over this quarter, the NSSP Secretariat continued to work towards reaching out to stakeholders and rolling out training programs. The Master Trainers conducted several field visits to provide guidance to farmers. There was also increased engagement with the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to improve market access.

Please read the updates below to know more about NSSP activities and the progress made under the Platform during the quarter. Do reach out to us in case of any questions or recommendations.

Thanks,
NSSP Secretariat

Field-level interventions

- The Training of Trainers in Telangana state was completed in December 2021. Since then, follow-up field visits have also been conducted.
 - NSSP Master Trainer Mr. Upender Reddy visited chili fields to make a direct observation on the thrips outbreak on the crops, and suggest control measures.
 - The second round of visits were conducted in February 2022, in which it was observed that the thrips was one of such rare pests that directly attacked flowers and control measures were not very effective.



Field visits by Master Trainer Upender Reddy at Chili growing FPOs in Telangana

- Training of Trainers in Rajasthan was completed in December 2021. Since then, two rounds of field visits have been conducted in the state by NSSP Master Trainer Dr. Rajpurohit in January and February 2022. During the visits, on-ground guidance was provided to the farmers.



Field visit by NSSP Master Trainer Dr. Rajpurohit at cumin-growing FPOs in Rajasthan

FPO Outreach

- Direct market access to FPO

As part of the Market Access program, the availability of prices produced using IPM techniques was

As part of the Market Access program, the availability of spices produced using IPM techniques was compiled and circulated directly to the buyers (both retailers and exporters). Though we had a production plan of nearly 23,000 MT when seasons started, only around 5000 MT was finally produced by all 43 FPOs together. This shortfall was primarily due to the heavy infestation of Black Thrips in Chillies and unseasonal rains and dews damage in Cumin.

- **FPO Interaction/ Screening for the year 2022-23**
 - Meeting with the FPOs in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh was conducted on March 16-17, 2022. Officials from Spices Board India, IDH, Rainforest Alliance, and AISEF were present during the meeting.
 - FPOs gave their feedback and suggestions on the Training of Trainers and the market access support provided by NSSP. The FPOs appreciated the initiatives taken by NSSP and suggested more such training and interventions. We conveyed the expectation of a minimum 10% of their total production to be targeted as IPM and sustainable and they have agreed to that for the coming season

Spices produced using IPM techniques

The quantity of spices produced using IPM techniques, available with FPOs in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka was circulated among the NSSP stakeholders. Several exporting companies including Mane Kancor, Nedspice, Akay Natural Ingredients, ITC, and Swani Spices contacted the FPOs in Chilli, Turmeric, and Cumin.

Feedback from the FPOs with regard to the NSSPs market linkage support was collected, in which they have indicated that they are satisfied with the support provided. Some of the FPOs have already shared the samples with the exporting companies.

Outreach

Membership Campaign

As part of our efforts to increase the membership, we have collected a database of around 70 domestic spice retailer companies. We will connect with them and encourage them to join the NSSP platform. The list included prominent spice retailers in India.

MoU with RA, SSI & WSO

- We are glad to announce that Rainforest Alliance has signed up with NSSP as a collaborator. This will strengthen our work towards promoting sustainability in the spice sector.